CLAIMS

1   1.   A graphical user interface for a travel planning system
2   comprises:
3   a tabular region of the graphical user interface that
4   displays summarized travel options and comprises a plurality of
5   cells that act as controls;
6   a second region that displays selected travel options
7   resulting from filtering a set of travel options in accordance
8   with a control actuated in the tabular region.

1   2.   The graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the
2   controls in the tabular region are arranged in a rectangular
3   manner.

1   3.   The graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the
2   controls in the tabular region are arranged in a column and where
3   upon actuation of one of the controls in the column causes
4   results to be displayed in the second region as a grouping of
5   travel options in accordance with a summary travel option
6   corresponding to the control.

1   4.   The graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the
2   controls in the tabular region are arranged in rows and columns
3   and wherein, upon actuation of one of the controls in a
4   peripheral one of the rows or columns, causes the results to be
5   displayed in the results region as a grouping of travel options
6   in accordance with a summary travel option corresponding to the
7   selected control.

1   5.   The graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the
2   controls in the tabular region are arranged in rows and columns
3   and wherein, upon actuation of one of the controls that is an

4   interior one of the cells in the rows and columns, causes the

5   results to be displayed as a grouping of travel options in

6   accordance with a intersection of the summary travel options

7   corresponding to the intersection of the selected row and column.

1   6.   The graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the

2   controls are links to routines that invoke an appropriate

3   enumeration algorithm.

1   7.   The graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the

2   interface is implemented as a web page in a web browser and the

3   controls are hyperlinks to the enumeration routines.

1   8.   The graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the

2   tabular region having the controls are further arranged as a

3   tabbed table comprising at least an airline tab, an airport tab

4   and a flight time tab.

1   9.   The graphical user interface of claim 1 wherein the

2   graphical user interface is represented in a first web page and

3   the results region displays itineraries and includes links that

4   can invoke a second web page to display details of the

5   itineraries.

1   10.   A method for displaying travel options comprises:

2   compartmentalizing travel options into 'bins',

3   according to a set of criteria.

1   11.   The method of claim 10 wherein compartmentalizing

2   travel options into 'bins', according to a set of criteria,

3   comprises:

4   displaying the resulting bins in a table.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein compartmentalizing travel options into 'bins', according to a set of criteria, comprises:

displaying the resulting bins in a two-dimensional table, with one criteria assigned to each dimension of the table.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein compartmentalizing travel options into 'bins', according to a set of criteria, comprises:

displaying the resulting bins in a two-dimensional table, with one criteria assigned to each dimension of the table, and with a third criteria depicted in each cell of the table.

14. The method method of claim 10 wherein the criteria involved include one or more airlines or other carriers of passengers, number of stops that the carrier makes en route to origins and destinations, departure and arrival times, or time ranges, of carriers involved in travel options, airports that carriers depart or arrive from, cost of travel options, and other criteria including ticket restrictions and airline safety records.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein a third criteria depicted in each cell of the table.

16. The method of claim 10 further comprising selecting a cell from the table to producee specific information related to that cell which is presented to the traveller.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the information that is presented to the user is in the form of a table of travel options.